

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

INTRODUCED BY M. TAYLOR

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL GROUPS AND AGENCIES TO PROMOTE THE CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS IN A MANNER THAT ADDRESSES LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES ~~AND~~, TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR LOCAL WEED CONTROL PROGRAMS ON AN ANNUAL AND CONTINUING BASIS, AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN HELPING LOCAL GROUPS AND AGENCIES ACCESS FEDERAL WEED CONTROL PROGRAMS AND PROCURE AVAILABLE FEDERAL WEED CONTROL FUNDS.

WHEREAS, noxious weeds are invasive species that are very difficult to contain or eliminate once they are established; and

WHEREAS, noxious weeds are invading Montana's rangeland, forest land, waterways, cities, towns, private lands, and public lands, INCLUDING NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS; and

WHEREAS, noxious weeds replace native species on lands regardless of land ownership and land ownership boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Montana's citizens and Legislature have made significant contributions and commitments toward reducing the acreage infested by noxious weeds and controlling any new invasions; and

WHEREAS, current working agreements between public land management agencies and county weed districts and other local groups are generally successful in addressing the control or containment of noxious weeds on public lands; and

WHEREAS, noxious weeds are a continuous problem that must be addressed on an annual basis and are never truly eradicated from the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, public land management agencies should, at a minimum, contribute financially to the control of noxious weeds in Montana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

1 That the federal government be strongly urged to:

2 (1) enter into agreements with local groups and agencies to promote the control of noxious weeds
3 in a manner that addresses locally identified priorities; ~~and~~

4 (2) continue to provide funding for local weed control programs on an annual and continuing basis;
5 AND

6 (3) PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN HELPING LOCAL GROUPS AND AGENCIES ACCESS FEDERAL WEED CONTROL PROGRAMS
7 AND PROCURE AVAILABLE FEDERAL WEED CONTROL FUNDS.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the
9 President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture, the
10 Secretary of the Interior, the presiding officers of the Appropriations Committees of the U.S. Senate and
11 U.S. House of Representatives, the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Chief of the Forest Service,
12 THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

13 - END -